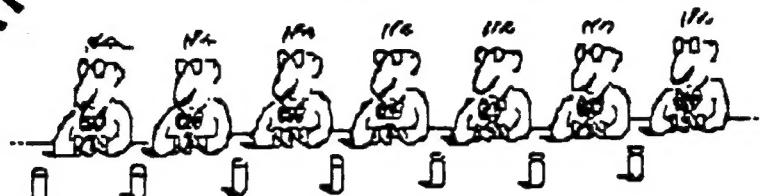


11-92



Hampden County Radio Association, Inc.
ZERO BEAT

*November 1, 1992 Happy Thanksgiving
Our 45th ARRL Affiliated year*



Panel of Experts

Board of Directors

1992 Club Officers 1993

President:	Larry Lemoine	N1EPE
Vice President:	Fred Stefanik	N1DPM
Treasurer:	Greg Stoddard	N1AEH
Secretary:	Jim Sebold	N1DUY

1992 Club Directors 1993

<i>Expiring 1992</i>	<i>Expiring 1993</i>
WA1YCA Tyron Cote	KAIWER Paul Geng
KAITBS Fred Gore	NR1L Kevin Hilinski
KAIQFE Bob Gutowski	W1ZGP Bob Leaver
N1GVV Adam Olson	K1MVR Dave Olson

Please note that KAIQFE's call was misrepresented in the October newsletter as KIQFE. Sorry Bob, I'm not a qualified VE, you'll have to take the test for an upgrade.

November Club Meeting - Our Annual Auction
Friday, November 6, 1992 **7:00 pm sharp is auction start up**

Feeding Hills Congregational Church
Rte 57 and Rte 187

Feeding Hills, Massachusetts

please note: an auction is a public sale in which items are sold to the highest bidder ! !

SETUP AND INSPECTION TIME IS 6:00PM

What's Inside . . .

Info on Membership survey from Fred N1DPM

Information from Jim N1DUY

Editor's Corner

Article from Kevin Hilinski

President' Message

Club Questionaire

ATV article from Stan N1INB

WA1OCK, Joe , lets us know the shuttle frequencies to monitor during this space shuttle mission. They are 146.595 and 223.940.

President's Message

I'll begin, just like last month, by thanking our speaker Don Huntington, K1DH. His presentation on cellular phones was excellent.

Don presented a rather technical topic in a simple fashion and it generated many questions from the group.

Well it's that time of the year again. November is auction month and plans are in place for our next meeting:

Auction: a public sale in which items are sold to the highest bidder

When?: Friday, November 6

Where?: Feeding Hills Congregational Church

Time?: 6:00 pm Setup & Inspection

Auction Starts: 7 pm sharp

Rules

The HCRA takes 10% off the final selling price. Minimum should be clearly marked!!

The auctioneer has the right to combine items in the interest of time. The decision of the auctioneer is final.

All equipment, boxes, junk, etc. must be cleared from the church by either the buyer or seller. No disposal facilities are available at the church.

All item must be marked with the call (or first and last name, if not a ham) of the seller. If the seller is not present, the call of the person bringing the items should also be clearly marked.

Donations to the club will be accepted.

The December club meeting is also being firmed up. In addition to our annual Holiday Social, we are planning a Homebrew Nite; sort of a show and tell. More on this next month.

The Board of Directors are very interested in your opinions. When you receive your membership survey PLEASE complete and return it to us. Each question will help us in improving how we plan meetings and events. Also, be candid, we really want to know how you feel! Once the results are tabulated we will publish them in a future Zero Beat issue.

The Spring Flea Market is moving forward. Two board members, Bob Leaver W1ZGP and Paul Geng KA1WER, have volunteered to co-manage the event. I'm sure they'll be getting a lot of help from many of us.

Our first VE session is scheduled for 9:00am, November 14 (Saturday) at Minnechaug Regional High School - Main Street, Wilbraham.

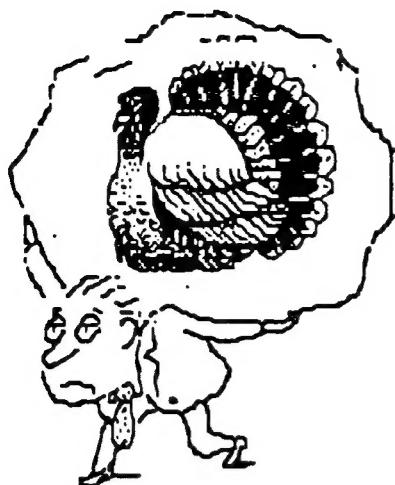
The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 12, starting time is 7:30 pm. Location is Greg Stoddard's QTH.

Thanks again to the club members who participated in last months Board of Directors meeting:

WA1EYF	Steve Nelson
N1IJK	Barry Mason
K1II	Charlie Dunlap

73's Larry





Editor's Message

Welcome to November folks! Happy Turkey month. Don't forget to vote November 3, 1992. I would like the opportunity to congratulate the two new board members Adam N1GVV and Bob KA1QFE. I am sure their efforts combined with all our board members will make our club the best it can be. One topic I would like to bring your attention to is the submission of articles for Zero Beat. Perhaps some of you are not aware of the address to send them to or the deadline for publication. Please note this information at the close of this writing. Please keep in mind that our club is only as strong and as interesting as you the member makes it. While you are thinking of it, why not put a little something together whether it be a personal experience, and article that peaked your interest, what ever it may be send it in. If it concerns Amateur Radio and is important to you I guarantee that other members will be just as excited as you were about the article. If what you need printed is something simple and quick please give me a call. The more articles, the larger and more interesting the newsletter becomes. (please keep me busy!) It really gives me great satisfaction to see that people care as much about their club and newsletter as I do by sending in articles which appeal to them. It is appreciated by the newsletter reaches.

Please send your articles in either written(camera ready) format or on a 3.5 disk in ASCII format to the following address. Thanks for your attention and best of luck to all in the upcoming Auction this Friday the 6th.

Charles F. Daley
560 Franklin Street Ext.
Agawam, Ma 01001
413-786-9978

Information on ATV from Stan NIINB

Want to try ATV

You might be surprised to find out you have what it takes to receive some of the local activity in the area. First thing you will need is a 430 horizontal polarized antenna. Anyone who doesn't have this get in touch with me for some plan's to build one.

Then you will need some low loss coax. 9913 75ohm cable line or even 300 ohm twin lead works great.

Now all you need is a receiver. Well try your VCR or cable ready tv. Make sure it has a manual tuner on it so you can fine tune. Connect all of the above and with a little luck you will be seeing some of the great Pictures the local ATVers send to each other.

Oh and by the way any of you guys that have transmitters that have let the cob webbs get the best of, we would love to see you up on the repeater.

ATV talk frequency is 144.340 and W1HGJ's net night is Wednesday at 1945. W1NI's net night is Monday at 1945. Hope to see you soon on ATV.

73's Stan NIINB

<u>Repeater - QTH</u>	<u>input</u>	<u>output</u>	<u>channel</u>
W1HGJ- Soapstone	439.25	426.25	58
W1NI- Farmington	434.00	421.25	57
KC1ZH- Greenfield	434.00	421.25	57
WINRE- New Haven	42625	43925	60

1992-1993 Membership Survey

In the back of this issue of Zero Beat is a 20 question survey. The Board of Directors have decided that it would be a good idea to survey the members to find out what direction the HCRA should proceed in. This will also help us make some very important decisions concerning the types of meetings, functions, and activities the club participates in and to what degree. We hope that you will take the time to complete it so that we can run the club the way the membership wants. Remember, this club is for all of us, and this is your chance to help run it. So let your voice be heard! If you wish to attach any editorial about something not covered on the survey, feel free!! We will address this at a future board meeting. You can either bring your completed survey to the club auction on November 6, there will be a deposit box for them, or if you can't make the auction, please mail the completed survey to me at: 50 Witheridge Street Feeding Hills, Ma. 01030. The results of the survey will be published in an upcoming issue of Zero Beat.

Fred Stefanik N1DPM

Items For Sale

ROHN 45G Foldover 28' good condition asking \$ 500.00 W1ZGP, Bob (203)653-0715

Cushcraft 10 3CD, 3 element 10 meter yagi, 10 foot boom. As new condition \$ 100.00 or best offer. Contact N1MUW, John at (413)568-0844

Cushcraft ATB - 34, Triband Yagi 10, 15, 20 meters. Modified to 5 elements on a 24 foot boom (works great this way!!!) or as stock 4 elements on a 18 foot boom. Includes a W2DU1:1 current balun. \$ 150.00 or best offer. Contact Fred at (413)786-7943

Complete Packett Radio Station:

Commodore 64 computer
spare Commodore 64 computer
all power supplies and cables
1541 disk drive 1702 color video monitor
PK-64 (HFM) TNC Manuals
Software Jumper wire to transciever
other Extras: Joystick, Games, Etc.
Price is \$ 275.00.
Contact: Jeff N1KBY at (413)786-2517

Help is Available !!

Anyone interested in help with readying their station for the January VHF Sweepstakes, please feel free to ask. This may include Antenna/Tower work, as well as technical assistance. Now's the time to do this before the weather gets bad! contact Fred, N1DPM at (413)786-7943.

Important Club Information Second Call for Dues for November 1st

Members due for renewal this year have 10/92 in the upper right hand corner of their ZB mailing labels. If your 93 dues are not paid by the December meeting, the secretary's computer will forget your name and not print a mailing label for the January issue of Zero Beat. We hope you won't let this happen. Please renew in November.

Jim, N1DUY

The Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA) has a new Pioneer Chapter serving our local area. If it has been 25 years since your first amateur license, and you are licensed now, even with a gaps of expired licenses, you are eligible to join QCWA and the local chapter. For more information please contact:

K1BZE Yorke Phillips
W1ALL George Hughes

1992 IARU HF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

by Kevin Hilinski NR1L

Back on July 11 and 12, 1992 I had the pleasure of operating in the IARU HF World Championship with Scott Cohen, KA1QAS. This is a world wide amateur radio event where the participants try to talk to as many different hams during a 24 hour period. This is a special contest for me, because it occurs in the middle of the summer. It is well separated from any other radio contest with the exception of Field Day, so it is something to look forward to. Also, many "big guns" take this contest off to concentrate on some of the bigger contests in the fall, so it is fairly easy to compete successfully. I am a big Field Day fan, so right after Field Day I am usually still psyched to continue operating, thus that is where the IARU comes into play. This contest is a lot of fun, and most hams can have a good time with even a modest set up. You do not have to be a serious contest to enjoy the event. Even a couple of hours during your spare time can both benefit the full time participant and the casual operator. The full time participant will be grateful for the additional valuable qso points. The casual operator will find it very exciting in the fact that it is relatively easy to build up their DXCC count. Even with a modest set up, it is a feat that is easily achievable. Simply find a frequency and call CQ contest and most likely hams from all around the world will call you. They will be glad to work you to increase their qso totals. Another alternative is to spin the dial and answer the dx stations calling CQ, many of whom are begging for a point.

The rules of the IARU HF World Championships are relatively simple. The basic goal of most participants is to work as many different hams as possible, as well as ITU zones (also commonly known as multioperators) during the 24 hour contest period. The hours for this particular one occurred 1200 UTC Saturday until 1200 UTC Sunday, or locally 8 A.M. to 8 A.M. The exchange of each participant is an ITU zone. The east coast of the United States is zone 8, so that is what the HCRA would exchange. The more zones you contact, the more points you will earn. Contacts within your own zone count 1 point. Contacts within your own continent, but a different zone count 3 points. Contacts with a different continent count 5 points. This particular contest only has two categories. Single operator and multioperator. Single operators may choose phone, cw, or mixed mode. Multioperator can only choose single transmitter, mixed mode. In other words "Multi-Multies" are not allowed and a cw contact must be made to complete the mixed mode portion of the rule.

Finally, the fun began. This years event for Multi station NR1L began when Scott Cohen, KA1QAS arrived at about 7 A.M. on Saturday morning. Scott and I soon began to check our operating equipment and discuss our strategies. The equipment at my shack consists of a semi-modest contest set up. I do not have a plethora of mono band stacked antenna arrays, one for each band. I do have a Tri-bander up on a 80 feet tower, thanks to Stan KA1ZE. This set up, although not the best for a serious contestor, suited Scott and I just fine because of the lack of activity of the "big guns" as mentioned before. This again makes

an excellent opportunity for a non contestor with a primitive set up such as a dipole for an example, to rack up a few contacts and have a great time. Inside my shack I have an ICOM IC-781 and an ALPHA 76-A amplifier that puts out about a kilowatt. We were also using a IBM clone to computer log, which made our job much easier. Soon it became time for the contest to begin. Scott and I thought the best way to operate a 24 hour contest with limited fatigue, is to operate every other hour throughout the contest period. I began the contest at 8 A.M. sharp on 15 meters and discovered the band was bombarded with signals, excellent the bands appeared to be open. We began to quickly build up our point and qso totals. The bands appeared to be wide open and we were having a great time. Just like we planned, we operated every other hour. This plan worked out great as it allowed us to take "cat naps" and get well needed rest. By the time the contest was over, Scott and I studied the monitor screen and noted we made over 1200 qsos! Wow, not bad for just two bands. (10 never really opened up so in reality we were only on two.) Scott and I were pretty pleased with the results, although we know we can probably improve with more experience. This nearly doubled our effort from 1991. However, the band conditions were really bad that year. In 1991, we received a certificate for winning Connecticut, multioperator section. Hopefully the feat was repeated this past year. I am pretty confident we accomplished this again, and I am looking forward to seeing the results in the February 1993 QST.

I would like to encourage HCRA members to operate in this contest next year, and if enough people are interested, I will be

willing to coordinate a system in which club members can receive awards. It is a good addition to the annual VHF contest, or for those of you who do not have the VHF equipment. If you are interested in doing something like this, please write me, or feel free to talk to me at a club meeting.

73, *Ken* N81L

1992 - 1993 HCRA MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

1. What of the following HCRA events do you participate in?
 Field Day
 VHF Sweepstakes
 Auction
 Flea Market
 Banquet
 Regular Monthly Meetings
 Holiday Social

2. I would like to see more meetings on:
 Packet Radio
 Oscar/Satellites
 DX or DXpedition (Long Distance Communications)
 VHF and Above
 Field Day
 Homebrewing
 Antennas HF VHF GENERAL
 QRP (Low Power Operation)
 Portable Operation
 Other _____

3. What was your all time favorite meeting?

4. What was your favorite meeting last year?

5. Would you be more apt to attend our annual club meeting and election of officers if it were to be held at a normal meeting rather than in conjunction with the banquet? YES NO

6. I would attend the HCRA banquet if it were:
 Kept as is
 Catered at the church
 Picnic / Barbecue
 Expanded Holiday Social

7. I would be interested in helping at the flea market.
_____ YES NO

8. I would be interested in helping at Field Day.
_____ YES NO

9. I find most meetings: (Choose 2) (One from each column)
 Too Long Too Technical
 Too Short Not Technical Enough
 Just Right Just Right

10. Do you understand what Field Day is about and why it is important to Amateur Radio?
_____ YES NO

11. Would you be interested in combining Field Day with a club cookout or picnic?
 YES NO

12. Do you feel that our club Field Day effort is too serious?
 YES NO

13. Do you feel that our club effort in the January VHF Sweepstakes contest is too serious?
 YES NO

14. Are you interested in purchasing a Hat, T-Shirt, or Jacket with the HCRA name and a Logo on it?
 YES NO

15. Would you like to see "Tech Corner" reinstated?
 YES NO
If yes, are you willing to coordinate it?
 YES NO

16. Would you like to see the HCRA run a licence class?
 YES NO
If yes, would you like to run or instruct them?
 YES NO

17. We believe the HCRA is a general interest amateur radio club. If you could change anything in the club, what would it be?

18. What would you like to get from being a HCRA member?

19. What would you be willing to give to get what you listed above?

20. What is your favorite Amateur Radio interest?

Hampden County Radio Association, Inc.
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